

MITCHEL WRONG, SAY CITY SENATORS

**Republican Six Declare
His View on \$63,000,000
Budget Ignores Facts.**

PORK BILLS SMALLEST IN YEARS, THEY HOLD

**Asserting That the Sum Named
Is Necessary, His Statement Is
Analyzed item by Item.**

The six Republican Senators of New York City—Ogden L. Mills, Charles C. Lockwood, Alvah W. Burlingham, Jr., Robert R. Lawson, Alfred J. Gilchrist and George Cromwell—have risen to the defense of the \$63,000,000 budget passed by the Legislature in its closing hours late Saturday night and early Sunday morning. About \$44,000,000 of this sum—the largest appropriated in years—will come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of New York City.

The six Senators declare the \$63,000,000 appropriations were necessary and insist they were not extravagant.

They answer Mayor Mitchel's statement "item by item," in which he criticized the \$63,000,000 appropriations, and ignore all others, because the Mayor's statement was specific, but "based throughout on an erroneous understanding of the facts."

"Because Mayor Mitchel dealt in figures and facts—as he understood them—we reply to his statement item by item to show him and to the public that he was wrong," the six senators explain. Their statement in part follows:

"In view of the very serious conflict in respect to the state finances, the many conflicting statements and the charges that have been repeatedly made in the press of New York City and by its public officials to the effect that the appropriations are unnecessarily large and exceed by millions the amount actually necessary to the proper financing of the state government, we deem it our duty as representatives of the people of New York to make a statement of the actual facts."

"We have made a careful analysis of the various finance bills; we have consulted the heads of departments with respect to the needs of their respective departments, and have compared these facts and figures thus obtained with the statement issued by Mr. Mitchel and Mr. McAneny."

"It is true that this year's budget is unusually large, but the appropriations are not greater than the needs of the state actually require."

"The fact is that the statements of those criticizing this year's appropriations have been in the main generalities. Mayor Mitchel's criticism, while specific, was based throughout on an erroneous understanding of the facts."

"Despite the fog of figures in which the whole question is blanketed, this fact stands out: The sums appropriated are not extravagant. This is conclusively proved by the fact that the appropriations for state hospitals, where no appropriation for extravagance is granted, have been materially reduced below those of the Glynne administration, which the critics of the present administration have described as bed rock figures."

"There has been much talk of the special or so-called 'pork barrel' bills. Now, these bills this year are the smallest in years—\$450,000. Not one cent of it can be used for salary increases unless it is so specified in the law."

"But what has particularly impressed us and what we desire to emphasize as forcibly as possible is the fact that in its attempt at economy the Democratic administration failed in many instances to provide fully for the maintenance of the state government for the year beginning October 1, 1914, which is well exemplified by the Workmen's Compensation Commission, which found itself without funds of any kind on January 15 of this year."

"The whole controversy is largely a question of fact, and perhaps the best way to present the case of the state administration is to point out in what respect its critics have been misinformed."

"The total appropriations amount in round numbers to \$61,000,000. In a recent statement Mayor Mitchel contends that they can be reduced by over \$18,000,000."

The Senators then cite statements of Mayor Mitchel and reply to them, some of which follow:

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"The allowance of State's office has been increased \$1,000 over last year's appropriation bill. Office expenses have been increased from \$7,000 to \$9,000. In the motor vehicle bureau of the Secretary of State's office the increase in office expenses is still more pronounced. Here the jump is from \$10,500 to \$20,500."

Answer: "The increases in this office have been materially cut in the bill in its final form. Such as remain are accounted for by the increased registration of motor vehicles and the imposition of the new tax on motorcycles."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"The Civil Service Commission has its payroll increased by \$9,260."

Answer: "This proposed increase has been eliminated."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"The supply bill appropriates \$330,000 for lock-tenders along the canal. Six hundred thousand dollars was appropriated for this purpose in the general appropriation bill last year, and the total appropriations made available for this year are, therefore, \$30,000."

Turning to 1913, we find that only \$85,000 was appropriated for canal lock-tenders in that year. With one-third of the canal closed, \$60,000 would have been sufficient for this year. Why does the Legislature appropriate \$300,000 more, especially when the Superintendent of Public Works has announced that he is reducing expenses along the old canal?"

Superintendent of Public Works Wetherspoon states that the appropriation for maintaining navigation on the canal for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1914, was \$60,000. A similar sum was recommended to the Legislature by the then Superintendent of Public Works for the present fiscal year. At the legislative session of 1914, when it was proposed to cut the sum to \$60,000, such action was vigorously opposed by the then Superintendent."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"The supply bill appropriates \$300,000 for lock-tenders along the canal. The law says that the compensation of animals affected with the foot and mouth disease. It is not at all necessary that this appropriation should be made at this time. Not a single claim against the state has been proved as yet, and next year's supply bill is the week of May 10 to 15."

proper place to appropriate whatever sum may then prove to be necessary."

Commissioner of Agriculture Wilson states this money is asked for to pay for animals that were suffering with foot and mouth disease, determined by examination by expert representatives of both state and United States government. The appraised value of the animals slaughtered was \$586,142. These appraisals were made by representatives of the United States government and the government of the State of New York. The United States government makes an appropriation to pay one-half of this amount. The remaining one-half of the value of such animals so killed, to wit, \$293,171.50, is the amount of the value of the claim that have been presented to this state for payment and which have been audited and approved as being correct. There are other claims not yet audited for other animals already slaughtered for approximately \$7,000."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"The amount of \$316,000 (for the Educational Department) in the present supply bill is merely an attempt on the part of the Legislature to date an increase back to last January, when such increase should not be given until next October."

State Superintendent of Education states:

"This item is not to meet an anticipated increase required for payments to be made in October next."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"Last year the state hospitals in the three months of the fiscal year were compelled to economize to the extent of \$266,687. This was done with the aid of the legislature."

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"In view of the very serious conflict in respect to the state finances, the many conflicting statements and the charges that have been repeatedly made in the press of New York City and by its public officials to the effect that the appropriations are unnecessarily large and exceed by millions the amount actually necessary to the proper financing of the state government, we deem it our duty as representatives of the people of New York to make a statement of the actual facts."

"We have made a careful analysis of the various finance bills; we have consulted the heads of departments with respect to the needs of their respective departments, and have compared these facts and figures thus obtained with the statement issued by Mr. Mitchel and Mr. McAneny."

"It is true that this year's budget is unusually large, but the appropriations are not greater than the needs of the state actually require."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"In addition to this blanket appropriation for the state hospitals there are appropriations for the various charitable state institutions ostensibly for deficiencies, but in reality for increases in expenditures and salaries. For instance, \$100,000 is appropriated for the Bedord Reformatory."

Answer: "The increase of \$20,000 for the Bedord Reformatory is absolutely needed, because seven new cottages will shortly be opened, which must be maintained."

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"For the reformatory for the state hospitals there are appropriations for the various charitable state institutions ostensibly for deficiencies, but in reality for increases in expenditures and salaries. For instance, \$100,000 is appropriated for the Bedord Reformatory."

Answer: "The increase of \$20,000 for the Bedord Reformatory is absolutely needed, because seven new cottages will shortly be opened, which must be maintained."

Mayor Mitchel stated:

"The construction bill appropriates \$100,000 for the construction of highways and for guarding and feeding prisoners engaged in this work. Convicts can only work at a distance of thirty miles from the prison. Ten thousand dollars would seem at this time to be a large appropriation for the proposed purpose."

Superintendent of Prisons Rile states:

"The amount of \$100,000 is appropriated. The statement indicates a lack of knowledge of the statute relating to the matter. In the first place, conviction can only work at a distance of thirty miles from the prison. Ten thousand dollars would seem at this time to be a large appropriation for the proposed purpose."

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"The fact is that the statements of those criticizing this year's appropriations have been in the main generalities. Mayor Mitchel's criticism, while specific, was based throughout on an erroneous understanding of the facts."

"The truth is that hardly a dollar could have been saved in the construction of the roads without either violating the law or impairing the efficiency of the functions of government."

"Despite the fog of figures in which the whole question is blanketed, this fact stands out: The sums appropriated are not extravagant. This is conclusively proved by the fact that the appropriations for state hospitals, where no appropriation for extravagance is granted, have been materially reduced below those of the Glynne administration, which the critics of the present administration have described as bed rock figures."

"There has been much talk of the special or so-called 'pork barrel' bills. Now, these bills this year are the smallest in years—\$450,000. Not one cent of it can be used for salary increases unless it is so specified in the law."

"But what has particularly impressed us and what we desire to emphasize as forcibly as possible is the fact that in its attempt at economy the Democratic administration failed in many instances to provide fully for the maintenance of the state government for the year beginning October 1, 1914, which is well exemplified by the Workmen's Compensation Commission, which found itself without funds of any kind on January 15 of this year."

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INCORPORATED AT ALBANY

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Albany, April 26.—Incorporations filed with the Secretary of State today:

HANCOCK TRANSFER CO., \$10,000, B. C. Hancock, F. M. Gates and F. M. Wooster.

ALBANY BOOK & ADVERTISING AGENCEY, F. J. Fahey.

ALBANY BOOK & ADVERTISING CO., F. J. Fahey.